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SPEECH BY MR. A. RAHIM ISHAK, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND M.P. FOR SIGLAP CONSTITUENCY,
AT THE P.A.P. SIGLAP BRANCH KINDERGARTEN PRESENTATION
OF CERTIFICATES ON FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 1977 AT 9.00 A.M.

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The PAP Siglap Branch Kindergarten classes this year have an enrolment of 539 pre-school age children. It has a staff of eight teachers who are all bilingual and have at least the General Certificate of Education. Three spacious classrooms run four sessions a day - two in the morning and two in the afternoon. The grounds in which the Kindergarten is situated are provided with children playthings, a shed for mothers and guardians to sit, two avairies, a couple of gibbons, squirrels, and a large playground with shady trees. The whole area is fenced to keep out trespassers. It is quiet and free from traffic noises.

These are some of the reasons why parents in the Siglap area send their children to the PAP Kindergarten here. Parents are aware that their children are under trained hands to prepare them in reading, counting and writing skills before they are admitted to the first year in our primary schools. It is important that the public have a high regard for the teaching standard in our kindergarten as well as the performance of the teachers. If these standards are maintained and developed, parents will continue to have high expectation from our kindergarten.

During the school holidays, teachers at the PAP Siglap Branch Kindergarten attend courses in kindergarten teaching methods, etc. organised by the Institute of Education. This was previously conducted by the Adult Education Board. During school terms, our teachers do their best to inculcate proper social values, good morals, besides the inculcation of patriotic and national values. Good habits such as queueing up, throwing waste paper and litter into dustbins, being polite to one another as well

as to elders, the offer of appropriate greetings and salutations and other forms of good etiquette are constantly inculcated in these young Singaporeans. Good social behaviour, healthy living and community understanding among these young children are most important in order that they grow up to be civic-minded and disciplined citizens.

Yet for all these, the fees which parents pay for their children's kindergarten education here are low compared to other private kindergartens. The quipment and teaching aids used in the PAP Siglap Branch Kindergarten are in no way inferior to those found in some of the best kindergartens in Singapore.

There are plans to upgrade physical conditions in the PAP Siglap Branch Kindergarten. They will be carried out during the kindergarten holidays. I have no doubt that in the future as standards continue to improve, support from residents in the area will grow bigger.

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